

**Potomac River Basin
Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership**

Partnership Meeting

February 9, 2005

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Misc information

a. AWWA SWP Conference:

This meeting took place January 23-27, and was attended by several partnership members. ICPRB and EPA presented a poster on the formation of the DWSP Partnership.

b. EPA grant to ICPRB for strategy development:

ICPRB received a ~\$50K grant from EPA to continue coordinating partnership activities, in particular development of a strategy document and expansion of the partnership to upstream areas.

c. Grant opportunities – proposal ideas:

ICPRB will be using the attached one page summary of proposed partnership activities to solicit support from policymakers. Please let Julie Kiang know if you have comments.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has received a multimillion dollar grant for implementation of watershed protection projects. They will be soliciting specific proposals within about a month and there may be opportunities for the partnership to put together funding requests. EPA will forward specific information on the RFP when it becomes available.

3. Development of a comprehensive protection strategy

The strategy subcommittee compiled objectives, activities, and measures of success written by each of the workgroups to create a draft strategy document. This document is intended to provide potential partners, funding agencies, or other interested parties with a brief but comprehensive summary of the partnership's goals and projects. By describing objectives that can be met in the relatively near future, the strategy can also be used to document successes.

This strategy may be used as a centerpoint of a public event proposed for about September 2005 to highlight the 1st year's activities of the partnership. Workgroups should consider targeting deliverables/work products for announcement at that event.

The draft document includes a problem statement that will be expanded to include more facts on the current state of the watershed. It also includes the previously agreed upon mission statement and partnership objectives taken from the Partnership Resolution and Partnership Framework. A contribution from each workgroup outlines the workgroup's objectives, short term and long term activities, and measures of success. A summary table lists basic information about each activity. The strategy document also includes a concluding section that touches on future needs.

The strategy document is likely to be reviewed on approximately an annual basis, to assess progress towards individual objectives and to identify needed changes to the priorities or objectives.

Action items on strategy document:

- All partnership members should forward any comments on the draft document to Julie Kiang (jkiang@icprb.org) by February 28. These comments will be forwarded to the subcommittees for any needed revisions to their sections.
- Subcommittees should send any revision which to Julie Kiang by March 31. The addition of an introductory paragraph similar to that prepared by the urban issues subcommittee would be appreciated.
- The strategy subcommittee will then put these together into a near-final strategy document which we can hopefully adopt at our next meeting.

4. Reports from subcommittees

a. Early warning monitoring/emergency plan (Julie Kiang, ICPRB)

The early warning subcommittee is working to make sure that all partnership water utilities are included in an emergency communications plan. This involves increasing participation in the RICCS system and developing a one-page summary of emergency communications to be distributed to all water utilities and agencies. A draft of this summary is completed and will be available for review next meeting.

The subcommittee is also developing proposals for an early warning monitoring system including installation of monitoring equipment and development of a data sharing network. Lisa Olsen presented the basics of a proposal for installation of real time monitoring equipment at a new station near Whites Ferry. Also included in the proposal are data analysis and procurement of multiparameter probes for use at

interested water utilities. For additional details on the proposal or to comment, please contact either Lisa Olsen (ldolsen@usgs.gov) or Julie Kiang (jkiang@icprb.org).

There are some possibilities for pilot testing of biomonitoring equipment from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and EPA-Office of Research and Development. There is also the possibility of leveraging work on data sharing networks that has already been completed by Philadelphia Water Department.

ICPRB maintains a time of travel model for the Potomac. It is being integrated with RiverSpill/ICWater, a GIS-based time of travel model developed using national-level algorithms. There was consensus that one official source of information on model results would be beneficial during an emergency, but that individual utilities may have interest in running the model for their own purposes.

MWCOG has obtained Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant money to carry out work on time of travel modeling, time of travel model upgrades, and distribution system monitoring.

There is a need to develop better relationships with the petroleum pipeline industry. EPA agreed to work on developing this relationship. FCWA also has a potential contact.

b. Field studies on DBP sources (Plato Chen, WSSC)

The subcommittee is preparing a draft scope of work identifying priority research needs. One of the key questions concerning DBP precursors is whether they arise primarily from land-based sources or water-based sources. In addition, there is a need to characterize the natural organic matter in terms of when they are most prevalent and from what parts of the watershed they arrive. The treatability of various DBP precursors is also a research topic of interest.

Depending on treatment methodology, different utilities may have different concerns. **Utilities should forward information about their treatment method and DBP concerns to Plato Chen (pchen@wsscwater.com).**

The subcommittee will try to distribute the draft scope of work to the partnership by early March.

c. Emerging contaminants (Martin Chandler, WSSC)

The subcommittee is working to define emerging contaminants as they relate to the Potomac watershed. It will focus initially on

contaminants that have the potential to be endocrine disrupting and that have already been observed in the basin. The subcommittee agreed that the partnership is not in a position to carry out any fundamental research on emerging contaminants, but instead will seek to keep abreast of current studies and future directions. They are working on a white paper describing this research.

The subcommittee would like to put together GIS information on potential point and non point sources of emerging contaminants, as well as the locations of observed effects.

WSSC prepared a response to public inquiry on emerging contaminants. This letter has already been shared with many in the partnership and can be obtained from either Mohammad Habibian (mhabibi@wsscwater.com) or Julie Kiang (jkiang@icprb.org).

Carol Boughton summarized some of the work being conducted by USGS following the discovery of intersex fish in the South Branch of the Potomac River.

It was noted that advance notice of the planned publication of results would be appreciated by both the utilities and regulatory agencies. This will allow them to better prepare to respond to questions and to access results directly from USGS or other researchers, rather than solely from press reports. Carol Boughton will bring this concern to others at USGS.

Mohammad Habibian noted that while research to identify tolerance limits for emerging contaminants is important, a better priority for research might be on identifying suitable BMP's to control the introduction of these contaminants into water supplies.

It was suggested that a one-day workshop may be a means of developing a better understanding of emerging contaminants and making connections with others who are interested in this topic.

d. Urban Issues (Traci Kammer Goldberg, Fairfax Water)

This subcommittee is focused mainly on helping the partnership develop better ties with agencies that oversee urban stormwater management programs so that the partnership can advocate for management practices that will better protect drinking water in the basin.

In the short term, the subcommittee will investigate trends in land use and development in the basin, investigate current stormwater

management requirements, and prioritize communities with which to begin a dialogue.

e. Pathogens (Miranda Brown, Aqueduct)

Miranda Brown has been working very hard to develop ideas for this subcommittee, but is in need of additional help – **if you can help with pathogens, please contact Miranda Brown (Miranda.H.Brown@usace.army.mil).**

The subcommittee would like to develop a basic understanding of cryptosporidium sources in the Potomac watershed. So far it has identified only 2 studies examining this question. The subcommittee will compile some basic GIS data mapping potential sources in relation to intake locations – EPA should have this information on hand.

The subcommittee is also interested in evaluating possible methods for tracking sources of cryptosporidium. Miranda Brown has contacted several researchers, some of whom have volunteered to talk to the partnership about their work. The subcommittee will be putting together a workshop to learn from this work – if you have ideas or other related topics that you would like to see addressed, please contact Miranda.

The subcommittee will also seek to compile information on pathogens data for the Potomac and develop a strategy to involve stakeholders and communities in controlling pathogen sources. It is expected that the agricultural community will be an important group in these efforts.

f. Agricultural Issues (John Grace, MDE)

John Grace will be unable to serve as chair of this subcommittee, and for the time being the work will be focused on agriculture as a source of pathogens, and brought under the umbrella of the pathogens subcommittee. Other subcommittees should also consider inclusion of agricultural issues in their work plans.

John Grace suggested a possible means of developing relationships with agricultural contacts. Each water utility could develop a relationship with the soil conservation district for the county in which it is located. The ultimate goal would be to put more farm plans into place. John noted that MD has a cost share program in which farmers are responsible for only 12.5% of the cost of their plans. Other organizations have sometimes stepped in to cover this cost when it is prohibitive for the farmer.

A workshop could be planned after contacts with soil conservation districts have been established to facilitate technology transfer, discuss BMP effectiveness, and further solidify partnerships.

5. Outreach to smaller water utilities, local government, watershed groups

ICPRB will be working to involve upstream water utilities in the partnership. If you have any contacts or would like to help with this effort, please contact Julie Kiang (jkiang@icprb.org). As our projects get underway, we may wish to consider a formal mechanism for including local government and watershed groups in the partnership. This may help these groups to feel more fully a part of the partnership and give the partnership a means of demonstrating strong local support.

6. Next meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

10AM

ICPRB